



1 cm.

N.E.M.

Petraites equiradiatus sp. nov.

Relationships.—The species differs from other members of the genus recorded from Australia in having the three rays of the ventral fin all similar and the supra-orbital tentacle with a long outer filament and two short inner ones, all of which are broadly joined at the base. In the other species, *P. roseus*, *antimeetes*, *heptaeolus* and *nasutus*, the inner ray of the ventral fin is either reduced and slender or totally absent, and the supra-orbital tentacle consists of a short flap, which may be fringed or simple, without an elongate filament.

The species name is derived from the equality of the rays in the ventral fin, which forms a valuable diagnostic character.

The description is based on two specimens collected by Dr A. R. Main during February 1957. They were obtained at night from off the coastal-limestone platform at the western end of Wilson Bay, Rottneest Island. The specimens measured 97 and 83 mm. in total length and were identical in fin-ray counts.

The larger specimen is designated the type of the species and is lodged at the Western Australian Museum, No. P 4472. The smaller specimen is to be donated to the Australian Museum, Sydney.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Pigmy Possums at Bickley.—At my home in Piesse Gully, Bickley, on the afternoon of June 16, 1959, I found a South-western Pigmy Possum (*Cereuertus concinna*) drowned in an open water-tank at the edge of the bush. Remarkably enough after nightfall in the evening my wife found a domestic cat playing with another one of the little animals which it had caught and killed.

These were the first we had ever seen here over many years of residence. Fortunately, we were able to forward the two obtained to the Western Australian Museum, and we are indebted to the Director, Dr. W. D. L. Ride, for the identification.

—W. H. LOARING, Bickley.

Reappearance of Red-winged Wren in Old Haunts.—Towards the end of July 1959 my sister, Mrs. A. H. McWhirter, was astonished to see a male Red-winged Wren (*Malurus elegans*) in the garden of her home at Brookwood, Bickley. Brookwood is situated towards the lower end of one of the tributary streams of Piesse

Brook, where no Red-winged Wrens have been seen for over 30 years.

Banded Blue Wrens (*M. splendens*) were present in the garden at the time, and my sister could not be sure if the male was solitary or not.

Unfortunately, nothing has been seen of the bird since.

—W. H. LOARING, Biekley.

Flock of Galahs at Biekley.—In July 1959 a flock of Galahs (*Kakatoe roseicapilla*) appeared in Piesse Gully, Biekley.

I did not see the birds myself, but my neighbour, Mr. F. J. Bourke, told me that a flock of 15-20 of them settled in a dry Marri on his property on or about July 22. The birds came in from a north-easterly direction, apparently in two detachments, but eventually settled together in one flock in the dead Marri. They remained perched in the tree for a few minutes before flying on in a more or less southerly direction.

Mr. Bourke said the birds appeared to be in fresh plumage, with the pink coloration of their breasts strikingly vivid.

—W. H. LOARING, Biekley.

A Further Discovery of *Thylacinus* at Augusta, Western Australia.—Maxillary fragments of two small adult individuals of *Thylacinus* (Tasmanian Wolf or Tiger) have been found in a cave, near the Moondyne Cave, Augusta. On the Sussex Plan No. 88, in the Mapping Branch of the Lands and Surveys Department, Perth, it is marked as "Deep hole with eave," on a bearing of 299° 5', and 780 ft. from Moondyne Cave.

The first fragment (W.A. Museum No. 60.2.2) was found next to the south-east wall of the eave at a depth of 9 ft. 7 in. from the surface of the soil floor, which consists of red clays and sands, with black layers of humus-rich material.

The second fragment (W.A. Museum No. 60.2.1) was found by G. Burney, approximately 11 yds. south-west from the location of the first fragment, also adjacent to the wall, but at a depth no greater than 2 ft.—the maximum depth of the excavation dug here. Associated with the first fragment, in a band 6 in. above and below the 9 ft. 7 in. level, were *Setonix*, *Trichosurus*, *Macropus giganteus* and *Muridae*. Besides these, this deep excavation, from the surface to 9 ft. 11 in., contained *Pseudocheirus* and *Dasyurus*. The surface soil of the whole eave yielded all the above genera, except *Thylacinus*, and also *Thylacis*, *Potorous* and *Canis familiaris*.

Previous discoveries of *Thylacinus* in Western Australia were made by Glauert, in the Mammoth and Museum Caves at Margaret River and in the Moondyne Cave at Augusta.

The author wishes to thank Dr. W. D. L. Ride, Director of the Western Australian Museum, for identification of specimens, and Mr. A. R. Hunter, former President of the Augusta-Margaret River Tourist Bureau Committee, for permission to enter the above-mentioned eaves and others in the vicinity.

—R. M. HOWLETT, Zoology Department, University of Western Australia.